

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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46

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ARA-03 SSO-00 FSE-00 /005 W

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O R 171438Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4145

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 1479

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC EC

SUBJ: DESTITUTE USC CREWMEN ON SS ROMAN EDYTHE

REF: GUAYAQUIL 1460; STATE 220621

1. LOCAL AGENT FOR SS ROMAN EDYTHE INFORMS US THAT OWNERSHIP OF VESSEL HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK, HOLDERS OF MORTGAGE. BANK HAS CONTRACTED WITH A MR. SAMUEL OBERFEST, MERITRAT (SIC) CORP, NEW YORK, FOR OPERATION.

2. CHILEAN OWNERS OF CARGO HAVE SENT FUNDS FOR DEBTS, INCLUDING CREW WAGES, DUE TO SEPTEMBER 1. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE PLACED CONDITION THAT NO FUNDS, INCLUDING WAGES, MAY BE RELEASED UNTIL SHIP CERTIFIED READY TO PROCEED TO VALPARAISO. AGENT SAYS WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST AND CARGO OWNERS PROVIDES LATTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREW WAGES; BANK THUS DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESPERATE SITUATION OF CREW.

3. AGENT CONFIRMED SEPTEMBER 16 THAT THERE ARE NO PROSPECTS SHIP WILL BE SEAWORTHY IN NEAR FUTURE. ALL MAIN ENGINES ARE INOPERATIVE. SHIP HAS NO ELECTRICITY OR WATER AND CREW NOW SCAVENGING FOR FOOD. VIOLENCE BEGINNING TO BREAK OUT. FOUR OF USC CREWMEN ARE READY FOR DISCHARGE AS SOON AS FUNDS ARRIVE. FIFTH HAS ELECTED TO RIDE IT OUT FOR THE PRESENT.

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4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE CONTACT OBERFEST AND DETERMINE IF HE

CAN SENT APPROXIMATELY \$1200 DIRECTLY TO USC CREWMEN INVOLVED FOR BACK WAGES, OR FAILING THAT, DIRECT RETURN TICKETS. AGENT HAS SAID ANY FUNDS SUBMITTED THROUGH HIM MUST BE SPENT FIRST ON REPAIR OF VESSEL AND WILL NOT BE PAID TO CREW. WE WILL PROVIDE PAYROLL RECORDS IF OBERFEST CAN PAY. REPATRIATION LOANS FOR IRVIN AND MARK CUTLER WILL BE HELD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18 COB IN HOPE FULL PAY FORTHCOMING. PLEASE REPLY SOONEST. THESE MEN ARE BECOMING DESPERATE. BISHTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ACCIDENTS, SS ROMAN EDYTHE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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